



**City of
Norfolk**

Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of Council

FROM: City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meetings

September 6, 2013

Attached are the minutes from the City Council meeting held August 27, 2013.

R. Breckenridge Daughtrey

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Burfoot, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn. Dr. Whibley was absent.

Members of the School Board present: Dr. Kirk T. Houston, Sr., Chair, Mr. Brad Robinson, Vice Chair, Mr. Rodney Jordan, Dr. Noelle Gabriel, Mr. Warren Stewart, Mr. Ed Haywood and Ms. Courtney Doyle. Superintendent Samuel King was also present.

He thereupon welcomed members of the School Board and Superintendent to the joint meeting and called on Chairman Kirk Houston to begin the agenda.

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A handout was distributed to Council.

Dr. Houston briefly outlined their agenda on the current status of the schools, the accreditation of the schools, and the most recent SOL results.

Dr. King updated Council on Norfolk Public Schools current status and the Five-Year Strategic Plan Implementation. He first reviewed the Virginia Accreditation Benchmarks. He stated that it is the benchmark expectation from the State in terms of the percentage of students that are anticipated to meet and/or exceed standards.

He next reviewed the Pass Rates for the elementary schools, middle schools and high schools for the last two years. He noted that the “red” reflects the new and more rigorous adoption in terms of changing curriculum and the change in the assessment as well as technology enhancement versions that were before all school divisions for the first time this year. The Overall System Performance revealed:

- Major dips were experienced in the newly adopted curricular subject areas (Reading, Writing, Science)
- New technology enhanced items also affected results
- More schools are projected to fall into Accredited with Warning category

Dr. King next reviewed the Accreditation Ratings. He reminded Council that nothing is official as it relates to Accreditation until the latter part of September when the State will provide that information. All the information and analyses that they have provided thus far reflect internal analyses in terms of what they feel they seek to determine the implications for developing the strategies for improvement going forward. He next touched on the Overall System Performance. He noted that outside of the newly adopted curriculum areas they show improvement. The net effect is that there is overall improvement in 12 out of 17 areas (71% improvement).

In moving forward, they have developed Board and Division Priorities and a strategic planning process. Dr. King mentioned that they also brought together a group from the community made up of 32 individuals to enter into some major trouble-shooting and decision making. The first item of business for them was to develop some community beliefs. They developed 11 community beliefs and they are reflective of those things that should impact directly or indirectly the business of education in Norfolk. They were also charged with the task of developing parameters, strategies and objectives. He added that the 200-page document for the Five-Year Strategic Plan is available on the NPS web site.

The next schematic Dr. King reviewed reflects what they refer to as their schematic for success for the entire school district. It is referred to as the Cycle for Results. The five essential questions gives a good idea of the Cycle for Results which centers on knowing that the appropriate elements of the standards are taught and that it is aligned with what the State expects children to learn.

Lastly, Dr. King reviewed Transforming Schools and the initiative that is proposed. The proposal for the 10 schools was provided to the School Board and it was based on an analysis done over the past year. The list of the schools and their planned themes was provided to Council. Dr. King also gave a brief explanation on the benefits of a public conversion charter school. He stated that in order to begin to close the gaps and transform that they need more time and flexibility. He added that they are in ongoing discussions with the State concerning public conversion charter schools.

A. FY2013 FINANCIAL AUDIT PLAN

Cheryl Xystros, KPMG, LLC External Auditors, reported as follows regarding an upcoming federal grant audit:

- The audit team members were previewed.
- The scope of the audit was reviewed.
- The responsibilities of management and City Council were outlined as was those of KPMG.
- Fraud risks will be looked at.
- Priority areas were itemized along with other significant areas.
- Areas of focus include: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Food Stamp program, Capitalization Grants for Clean Water Revolving Fund, Disaster Grants and HIV Emergency Relief Project Grants among others.
- The audit timetable was presented last and will run from July to December 2013.

B. FY2014 ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

City auditor John Sanderlin reported as follows:

- He reviewed the audit plan – purpose and how it is developed.
- New audit projects were outlined for FY2014 and include the Planning Department, the Juvenile Detention Center, the Department of General Services and Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces along with citywide reviews; special reviews and a system specific review.
- Also reviewed were projects carried forward from the FY2013 Work Plan.

C. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Riddick expressed his opposition to the removal of the benches in Stockley Gardens.
2. Councilwoman Williams asked that when the city does work on private properties or surrounding areas to take photographs before work is started to document the condition of the properties.
3. Councilman Smigiel expressed concerns with regard to complaints from contractors and developers about the lengthy permitting process.
4. With regard to the Joint Work Session with Norfolk Public Schools, City Council made the following requests:
 - Councilman Protogyrou asked for weekly briefings from the School Board and/or the Superintendent's office which could be given at the beginning of each meeting.
 - Councilwoman Williams asked to duplicate NPS' request with Council's General Assembly package.
 - Councilman Riddick suggested paying a stipend to retired educators who are willing to come back and tutor or to assist teachers in the classroom. He added that we need to have more discipline in the schools and more commitment from parents and students.
 - Mayor Fraim asked that a briefing on the following be provided to Council at their next meeting: a) infrastructure, b) learning centers and possibly using recreation centers, and c) public safety issues. He also suggested scheduling another meeting with the Superintendent and the School Board and to also include General Assembly members.
 - Councilman Smigiel asked to have more data on our lower performing schools at the retreat. Mayor Fraim asked the City Manager to schedule time during the retreat for Council to meet with the Superintendent and the School Board.
5. With regard to Ms. Tanterrian Taylor's request for handicapped signage and crosswalk safety measures, Council commented as follows:
 - Councilman Smigiel asked that appropriate staff look at Louisiana Drive where a new signal light is planned.

- Vice Mayor Burfoot asked that all areas of the city be studied and to make it a priority.
- Councilman Protogyrou suggested that the Highway Safety Commission and the Commission For Persons With Disabilities study the issue.

D. PPEA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

Ron Williams, Assistant City Manager, reported as follows:

- The S. B. Ballard unsolicited proposal was accepted by the review team.
- In September competing proposals will be solicited for review in the conceptual phase.
- The RFP will be issued September 16th with proposals due 45 days after its release and will request pricing and conceptual design for Campostella, Broad Creek, Ocean View, Larchmont and Camp Allen.

E. 7-ELEVEN 6667 EAST VIRGINIA BEACH BOULEVARD

Frank Duke, Director of Planning, reported as follows.

- A history of the project was provided.
- In response to Council's request, the applicant has increased landscaping for the site.

F. WATERSIDE UPDATE

Mr. Jones updated Council on the details of the revised terms of the lease with the Cordish Companies. Mr. Hill provided information as relates to a comparison with other municipalities. The new lease will be for 50 years with two 15-year extensions. The upfront investment has increased to up to \$40 million. Mr. Hill noted that their original proposal asked for a 99-year lease, but they were able to negotiate that down. Councilman Protogyrou asked if a portion of the \$40 million could be used for marketing. Mr. Jones stated that there are provisions that relate to marketing.

Councilman Protogyrou stated that the agreement did not contain enough information about the specific renovations. Councilman Smigiel noted that it will go through the Design Review process and then come before Council. Councilman Protogyrou expressed concerns about the competition clause that allows Cordish to sell the lease to another company after investing at least \$5 million. He pointed out that Cordish owns property at Pembroke Mall and they have also developed property in Hampton. Mr. Jones stated that it was unlikely that they would compete with Waterside because that would make it difficult for them to recoup their investment.

Mr. Jones noted that Cordish has a very good reputation for building products that generate revenue and with the investment they are making that an assignment would be inconsistent with everything else that they have done. Councilman Smigiel added that the city could take certain measures in the event of a takeover scenario. Councilwoman Williams recalled that Cordish intends to create something that will complement Granby Street. Vice Mayor Burfoot added that Cordish will engage the community to find out what they would like to have at Waterside and to incorporate those into the plan.